IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 6, 12, 17, 19 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue those claims in another application. The claims of the application have been amended herein as indicated in the marked up copies of the claims.

1. (Thrice amended) A method for inhibiting apoptosis of a cell comprising contacting [treating] the cell ex vivo with a recombinant adenovirus comprising a polynucleotide encoding a [Receptor Internalization and Degradation (RID) complex having a RIDα] RIDα-S polypeptide, a RIDα-L polypeptide and a RIDβ polypeptide, as disclosed in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, wherein (a) the polynucleotide is operably linked to a cytomegalovirus ("CMV") promoter, (b) the adenovirus enters the cell and delivers the polynucleotide to the cell, (c) the RIDα-S polypeptide, RIDα-L polypeptide and RIDβ polypeptide [RID complex is] are expressed in the cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit apoptosis of the cell, (d) [and wherein] the cell expresses Fas, [TNFR-1,] DR3, TRAIL-R1, or TRAIL-R2, (e) the adenovirus lacks at least one functional E1 gene and (f) the apoptosis is not mediated by TNF activity.

4. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 1 wherein the recombinant adenovirus vector is 231-10.

7. (Twice amended) The method of claim [3] wherein the cell is a cell to be transplanted into a patient [in a transplant tissue].

10. (Thrice amended) A method for decreasing [apoptosis] the rejection of [target] cells that are transplanted into [in] a patient comprising [treating] contactingthe [target] cells [of the patient] ex vivo with a recombinant adenovirus comprising a polynucleotide encoding a [Receptor Internalization and Degradation (RID) complex having a RIDα] RIDα-S polypeptide, a RIDα-L polypeptide and a RIDβ polypeptide, as disclosed in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, wherein (a) the RID complex is operably linked to a cytomegalovirus ("CMV") promoter, (b) the adenovirus enters the cell and delivers the polynucleotide to the cell, (c) the RIDα-S polypeptide, RIDα-L polypeptide and RIDβ polypeptide [RID complex is] are expressed in the cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit apoptosis of the cell, (d) [and wherein] the cell expresses Fas, [TNFR-1,] DR3, TRAIL-R1, or TRAIL-R2, (e) the adenovirus lacks at least one functional E1 gene and (f) the rejection is mediated by Fas receptor activity.

AMENDED CLAIMS

C1 1. (Thrice amended) A method for inhibiting apoptosis of a cell comprising contacting the cell ex vivo with a recombinant adenovirus comprising a polynucleotide encoding a RIDα-S polypeptide, a RIDα-L polypeptide and a RIDβ polypeptide, as disclosed in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, wherein (a) the polynucleotide is operably linked to a cytomegalovirus ("CMV") promoter, (b) the adenovirus enters the cell and delivers the polynucleotide to the cell, (c) the RIDα-S polypeptide, RIDα-L polypeptide and RIDβ polypeptide are expressed in the cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit apoptosis of the cell, (d) the cell expresses Fas, DR3, TRAIL-R1, or TRAIL-R2, (e) the adenovirus lacks at least one functional E1 gene and (f) the apoptosis is not mediated by TNF activity.

C2 4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the recombinant adenovirus vector is 231-10.

C3 7. (Twice amended) The method of claim wherein the cell is a cell to be transplanted into a patient.

C4 10. (Thrice amended) A method for decreasing the rejection of cells a patient comprising contacting the cells ex vivo with a recombinant adenovirus comprising a polynucleotide encoding a RIDα-S polypeptide, a RIDα-L polypeptide and a RIDβ polypeptide, as disclosed in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, wherein (a) the RID complex is operably linked to a cytomegalovirus ("CMV") promoter, (b) the adenovirus enters the cell and delivers the polynucleotide to the cell, (c) the RIDα-S polypeptide, RIDα-L polypeptide and RIDβ polypeptide are expressed in the cell in an amount sufficient to inhibit apoptosis of the cell, (d) the cell expresses Fas, DR3, TRAIL-R1, or TRAIL-R2, (e) the adenovirus lacks at least one functional E1 gene and (f) the rejection is mediated by Fas receptor activity.

C5 13. (Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the recombinant adenovirus vector is 231-10.

C6 23. (Twice amended) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and a recombinant adenovirus that comprises a polynucleotide encoding a [RIDα] RIDα-S polypeptide, a

RIDα-L polypeptide and a RIDβ polypeptide, as disclosed in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the polynucleotide is operably linked to a cytomegalovirus ("CMV") promoter.

C6

24. (Thrice amended) A recombinant adenovirus vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding a RIDα-S polypeptide, a RIDα-L polypeptide and a RIDβ polypeptide, as disclosed in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, wherein (a) the polynucleotide is operably linked to a cytomegalovirus ("CMV") promoter, (b), the adenovirus is replication defective and (c) the polynucleotide is expressed upon infection of a eukaryotic cell with the adenovirus.